

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

March 10, 2003

Arizona School for the Arts

1313 North 2nd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85004

MINUTES

Members Present

Onnie Shekerjian – President

Kurt Davis-Vice President

Mary Gifford – Superintendent’s Designee

Cookie Goddard – Public Member

Sally Kur – Public Member

Kimberly Mosher—Public Member

Paul Smiley—Business Member

Members Absent

Mary Lynn Kelly—Business Member

Senator Linda Aguirre – Advisory

Representative John Huppenthal – Advisory

Representative Ted Carpenter—Advisory

Onnie Shekerjian called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m.

Agenda Item A – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item B – Moment of Silence

Agenda Item C – Roll Call: DeAnna Foulds called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Agenda D. – Welcome & Presentation

Mark Francis, Director of Arizona School for the Arts, welcomed the Board & presented information about his school and a unique aspect of their program called Presentation Day.

Agenda Item E – Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s Designee Mary Gifford indicated there was no new information to report at this time.

Agenda Item F – Executive Director’s Report

Kristen Jordison provided the following information:

- 1) Staff will provide a one day workshop for approved applicants. The workshop will include information on funding, Special Education, Open Meeting Law requirements, and the requirements to sign the charter contract.

- 2) The Board will form two Study Committees, one for AZ Learns and another to review self-funding proposals and other potential authorizers. Both committees will have at least two Board members and members of the chartering community participating. These meetings will be open to the public. Information will be available on the ASBCS website.
- 3) Results of the 2002 Parent Satisfaction Survey are available on the website.
- 4) The Board plans to have two meetings outside the Phoenix area. Tentative plans are to meet in Tucson in April and in Flagstaff in August.

Agenda Item G – Legislative Update

Michele Diamond reported:

- 1) The Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education met February 28 and voted unanimously in favor of consolidation, with the stipulation that the State Board of Education (SBE) maintains its authority to sponsor charter schools but have a one-year moratorium on sponsorship. The SBE has invited its charter schools to an informational meeting on March 17, from 9:00 a.m. to noon to discuss how this will impact them, should the consolidation take place. Our office will participate in this dialogue. The Arizona Charter School Association sent a letter to the Governor, supporting the consolidation.
- 2) The House Appropriations Committee passed HB2097, which would enable the sponsor of a charter school to withhold any portion of equalization payments for noncompliance. This bill will now go before the full House of Representatives for a decision and then to the Senate. This bill also enables the ASBCS to bypass the SBE by allowing the ASBCS to direct the Department of Education to withhold funds.

Agenda Item H – Consent Agenda

Sally Kur requested that Consent Agenda Item 3 be removed from the consent agenda.

Onnie Shekerjian requested that items 5 and 6 be removed from the consent agenda.

1. **Ann-Care Learning Academy, Inc.** – Request for an exception to USFRCS and Procurement.
2. **East Mesa Charter Elementary School** – Request for an extension to open in the fall of 2004.
4. **Mohave Accelerated Learning Center** – Request for changes in grade levels served.

MOTION

Motion made by Kurt Davis to approve items 1, 2, and 4 of the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Paul Smiley.

Motion passes unanimously
(Ms. Gifford abstained)

5. **Phoenix Academy of Performing Arts South** – Request for changes in curriculum or instruction.
6. **P.L.C. Charter School** – Changes in the school calendar involving the number of days of instruction.

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to approve the changes in curriculum for **Phoenix Academy of Performing Arts South** and the calendar for **P.L.C. Charter School** as requested. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously
(Ms. Goddard abstained)

Howard Bell presented information about his efforts to come into compliance with Grants Management.

3. **Franklin Phonetic Primary School, Inc.** – Request for changes in grade levels served. Cindy Franklin answered the Board's question regarding mastery level on school assessment tests.

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to approve the changes in grade levels served. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously

The order of the agenda changed to accommodate presenters.

Agenda Item J – Action Items

2. Omega Alpha Academy

Kristen Jordison provided an update on the submission of the 60-day compliance report. Ms. Jordison indicated that the two focus areas are Special Education and the fingerprinting of employees. The school was sent a request after business hours on Friday, March 7, to provide updated information on 28 employees with no information.

Dr. Lynn Busenbark, Director of the Exceptional Student Services Division of ADE, provided the Board with an update on the school's progress toward Special Education compliance.

Jerry Cogliazier, attorney for the school, and Jim Taylor, the school's Special Education Director, answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford indicating the school is still out of compliance. The Board is not comfortable waiting for compliance until June, and therefore directs the executive director to request information on an interim basis to monitor compliance. Additionally, by the close of business on March 11, 2003 the school shall provide documentation to the staff regarding requested information on personnel fingerprints and timetables for IEP and services for the hearing impaired student identified. Motion seconded by Cookie Goddard.

Motion passes unanimously

Agenda Item I – New Applications

1. Avalon Academy at San Marcos

Jeff Parker introduced his application and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Cookie Goddard to accept the application and grant the charter. Motion seconded by Paul Smiley.

Motion fails

1 aye (Goddard), 5 no

(Ms. Gifford abstained)

MOTION

Motion made by Paul Smiley to reject the application based on financial concerns, legal aspect of corporation, lack of preparedness and noncompliance with grants. Motion seconded by Kurt Davis.

Motion passes unanimously

(Ms. Gifford abstained)

3. Camelot School for the Performing Arts

Jeff Parker introduced his application and answered questions from the Board

MOTION

Motion made by Sally Kur to reject the application based on gaps and clarity needed in measurements and budgets, and noncompliance with grant reporting. Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

Motion passes unanimously

(Ms. Gifford abstained)

Board Breaks from 11:25 – 11:40AM

Paul Smiley leaves the meeting.

6. New School for the Arts Middle School

Marilyn Lanza introduced the application and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Kurt Davis to accept the application and grant the charter. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously

(Ms. Gifford abstained)

2. Bradley Academy of Excellence

Tanya Burston, James Singleton, and Helen Colbert answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Kurt Davis to accept the application and grant the charter. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion fails

3 aye (Davis, Goddard, Kur)

3 no (Gifford, Mosher, Shekerjian)

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to reject the application because the application failed to demonstrate sufficient qualifications to operate a charter school by lacking a realistic financial plan/budget and lacking information and clarity on the personnel that will operate the school on a day-to-day basis. Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

Motion fails

3 aye, 3 no (Davis, Goddard, Kur)

Davis changes vote to aye in deference to the Board's ability to move forward.

Motion passes

4 aye, 2 no (Goddard, Kur)

4. Harvest Power Community Development

Tabled until the next meeting at the request of the applicant.

5. More for Kids Charter School

Hector Simon introduced Jackie Dodds who introduced the application and proceeded to answer questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Cookie Goddard to accept the application and grant the charter. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

Motion fails

2 aye, 4 no (Davis, Kur, Mosher, Shekerjian)

MOTION

Motion made by Kurt Davis to reject the application based on need for a more fully developed curriculum and the lack of clarification and separation of financial support within the budget. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously

Kurt Davis leaves the meeting.

7. Tucson Small School Project

Carolyn Brennan introduced the application and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion made by Kimberly Mosher to accept the application and grant the charter. Motion seconded by Cookie Goddard.

Motion passes

4 aye, 1 no (Kur)

Agenda Item J – Action Items

1. Charter Contracts

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to approve the revisions to the initial and transfer charter contracts. Motion seconded by Cookie Goddard.

Motion passes unanimously

Agenda Item K – Approval of Minutes

February 10, 2003

February 27, 2003

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously

Agenda Item L – Call to the Public

No request forms submitted.

Agenda Item M – Adjournment

MOTION

Motion made by Mary Gifford to adjourn. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passes unanimously

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 PM

Signature

Date